

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 IO-13 DRC-01 /183 W

----- 023434

P R 061515Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7067

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: ANTI-NEMEIRI DEVELOPMENTS: STATUS REPORT

REF: KHARTOUM 1978

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SUDAN RAILWAYS BEGINS STRIKE; RESPONSE
OTHER UNIONS UNCERTAIN. REPORTED VIOLENCE IN ATBARA. DISSI-
DENT UNIONISTS CIRCULATE NEW STATEMENT. SUCCESS OF GENERAL
STRIKE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE APPARENT UNTIL SATURDAY. END
SUMMARY.

2. STATEMENTS. UNION PETITIONISTS CIRCULATED NEW STATEMENT
EVENING SEPT 5 ANNOUNCING ARRESTS SIX SIGNERS PREVIOUS
PETITION. NEW STATEMENT LISTS SERIES OF GRIEVANCES INCLUDING
UNJUST LAWS, UNFAIR WAGES, HIGH PRICES AND TAXES AND "PHANTOM
OF TERRORISM". IT CONCLUDES WITH CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE
EFFECTIVE 10:00 AM THURS., SEPT 6 THROUGH 10:00 AM,
SUNDAY, SEPT 9. READER ARE URGED IGNORE SUDANESE
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PRESS, RADIO OMDURMAN AND SSU PROVISIONAL UNION

COMMITTEE. PETITION IS PRUDENTLY UNSIGNED. SSU-LED MEETING OF UNIONS (REFTEL) LED TO STATEMENT BY SSU TRADE UNION COUNCILS AFFIRMING FULL SUPPORT FOR MAY REVOLUTION, CITATION THAT DISSIDENTS ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVE THEIR UNIONS AND APPEALS TO WORKERS OF SUDAN RAILWAYS, MECHANIZED TRANSPORT, AND STORES AND EQUIPMENT TO CEASE ANTI-GOS ACTIVITY AND EXPOSE PLOTTERS.

3. RAILWAY STRIKE. EMBASSY OBSERVATION IN KHARTOUM IS THAT RAILWAY STRIKE EXISTS WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION SHUNTING ENGINES. ACCORDING OUR INFORMATION, STRIKE IN ATBARA EFFECTIVE AND ARMY HAS OCCUPIED WORKSHOPS. GOS NEGOTIATORS (MINADM REFORM RAHMAN ABDALLA AND MINTRANSCOMM ABBADI WHO LEFT SEPT 5 ON EMERGENCY TRIP ARRIVED TO FIND FAIT ACCOMPLI). ATBARA SECTION SUDAN RAILWAY UNION REPORTEDLY WENT ON STRIKE IN ADVANCE DEADLINE IN REACTION TO ARREST OF PRESIDENT MUSA METAI AND OTHER LEADERS. RIOTS AND VIOLENCE ENSUED WITH SOME OPPOSITIONISTS IN KHARTOUM CLAIMING 11 WORKERS KILLED. VIOLENCE APPEARS SUBSTANTIATED BY GOS ANNOUNCEMENT OF 8 PM - 6 AM CURFEW IN ATBARA UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. (NO CURFEW IN KHARTOUM.) AS OF THIS AFTERNOON, STRIKES BY PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TRANSPORT WORKERS IN PARTIAL, BUT NOT COMPLETE. REAL TEST MAY OCCUR SATURDAY IN VIEW FRIDAY RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY.

4. OTHER EVENTS. MININTERIOR ABDALLA AL-HASSAN ANNOUNCED AS SIGNING ATBARA CURFEW DECREE SO RUMORS HIS ARREST OR RESIGNATION (REFTEL) APPARENTLY FALSE. GOS HAS ANNOUNCED KHARTOUM PROVINCE DETAINEES NUMBER 250 AND THAT 30 WILL FACE MAJOR CHARGES. THIS FIGURE CONSIDERED BY MOST SUDANESE AS UNDERSTATED. GOS TAKING PAINS STRESS INVESTIGATIONS BEING CONDUCTED WITH STRICT ADHERENCE TO LAW. GOS ANNOUNCING SUPPORT BY NUMEROUS TRADE UNIONS AND SSU BRANCHES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. EMB UNDERSTANDS PHYSICIANS' PETITION REPORTEDLY DEFERRED BECAUSE OF SPLIT AMONG MEMBERS. PETITION BY UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS HAS ALSO BEEN DELAYED. VP BAGHIR PUBLICIZED AS VISITING PRC ROAD PROJECT. SPECULATION IS THAT VISIT HASTILY CONFIDENTIAL

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ARRANGED PROVIDE RATIONALE FOR VISIT WAD MEDANI AREA WHERE RUMORED VIOLENCE INCLUDES STONING OF GOVERNOR'S HOUSE. GEZIRA TENANT ASSOCIATION (10,000) HAS REPORTEDLY DECLARED FOR GOS. MINEDUCATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTING DISCUSSIONS WITH SCHOOL PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS AND HEADMASTERS WITH SPECULATION THAT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS MAY BE REOPENED PROVIDED PROPER "DISCIPLINE" ESTABLISHED. RUMORS PERSIST ANSAR LEADER SADIQ-AL-

MAHDI AND KHATTMYH LEADER MOHAMMAR OSMAN AL-MIRGHANI
MAY MAKE STATEMENTS IF GENERAL STRIKE SUCCESSFUL. SOME
SOURCES INDICATE SADIQ HAS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO BE RUSHED
INTO PREMATURE SUPPORT FOR UNORGANIZED GROUPS AND ONE
STORY SAYS HIS HOUSE WAS STONED WHEN HE CHASTISED
DISSIDENT GROUP ON GROUND THEY HAD NOT SUPPORTED HIM
IN 1970.

4. ASSESSMENT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

5. SINCE PREPARATION FOREGOING, EMB UNDERSTANDS FROM
RELIABLE SOURCE THAT PRES NIMAIRI RETURNING TO KHARTOUM
QANNOUNCED THIS EVEING (RATHER THAN SEPT 8). FRITTS

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